

*The following is a church bulletin insert from the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention:*

## Fact Sheet on the RFA

The Religious Freedom Amendment (RFA) is a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution. The language of the amendment is as follows:

“To secure the people’s right to acknowledge God according to the dictates of conscience: Neither the United States nor any State shall establish any official religion, but the people’s right to pray and to recognize their religious beliefs, heritage or traditions on public property, including schools, shall not be infringed. Neither the United States nor any State shall require any person to join in prayer or other religious activity, prescribe school prayers, discriminate against religion, or deny equal access to a benefit on account of religion.”

### ***What the Religious Freedom Amendment WOULD and WOULD NOT do:***

- It **WOULD** correct years of judicial misinterpretation of the establishment clause.
- It **WOULD NOT** revoke the establishment clause.
- It **WOULD** reverse many of the restrictions the courts have placed upon the free exercise of religion, on government property in general, and public schools in particular.
- It **WOULD NOT** permit government-sponsored religion or proselytizing.
- It **WOULD** allow greater freedom for students who wish to pray.
- It **WOULD NOT** “require” prayer in public schools.
- It **WOULD** require government to treat all religions fairly.
- It **WOULD NOT** permit preference for one religion or sect over another.
- It **WOULD** advance belief in religious freedom.
- It **WOULD NOT** advance any particular religious belief.
- It **WOULD** give greater protection to individuals against government intrusion.
- It **WOULD NOT** create any new right for government.
- It **WOULD** guarantee that no person be discriminated against on account of religion.
- It **WOULD NOT** require that any person be given special status on account of religion.
- It **WOULD** require equal access to all people regardless of religion.
- It **WOULD NOT** require unreasonable access to government facilities.
- It **WOULD** protect the liberty of conscience of all people.
- It **WOULD NOT** protect only the liberty of people of a majority faith, or of a minority faith, or of no faith.

### **Why do we need a constitutional amendment?**

“We have given the courts more than 30 years to get this issue right, and they have persisted in not doing so. Legislative remedies would in all probability be overturned by the present federal judiciary. It is time for the people to give the courts further instructions . . . by the means provided by our founders, namely amending the Constitution. We must . . . constitutionally guarantee the free exercise of public school students and all citizens. We do not ask for, and do not want, government’s help in expressing our beliefs or acknowledging our religious heritage. The most and best government can do is guarantee a level playing field and then stay off the field.”

---Dr. Richard Land  
Executive Director,  
Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission  
Southern Baptist Convention

